

“Planned for God’s Purposes” “Some tools God uses to Shape us!”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept 6th

Reflection: Jesus’ first words when he began his public ministry introduce His Priorities! (Mt 4:17 and 19) He reinforced these priorities with his last words to His disciples. (Mt 28:18-20)

God’s Great Commission reveals that God’s Great Plan involves our:

- **Salvation:** Enabling a Restoration of a Personal relationship with God. Col. 1:13
- **Baptism:** Producing an identification and association with God and His Church. (Ro. 6)
- **Discipleship:** Providing a path for personal Transformation to Christlikeness! (Ro. 8)

Since Satan understands God’s priorities, Power and plan for each of us; He seeks to sidetrack us from pursuing them. This is the essence of Sin! (hamartia) offence, trespass, which comes from hamartano: meaning to err, drift and miss the mark. (Pr. 14:12 & Ps.16:11; James 1:12-24)

Discipleship helps us to understand & pursue God’s paths. Mt. 28:20 *“Teaching them to observe (tereo: to guard, value, watch, keep) all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”*

Entellōmai’: from en: fixed position and telos: to set out for a definite point or goal!

Through Discipleship we grow to: Understand God’s Goals & Will. (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16)

And Value (Trust) God and His will enough to adjust our lives accordingly. (Pr 3:5,6)

This produces (by God’s Grace and Spirit) personal transformation!

(Ro. 12:1-2; Mt 28:20; 2 Cor 3:18; Jms 1:22-25; 1 Jn 5:3; Eph. 2:8-10)

Direction: God often describes His people as “jewels”.

Ex 19:5,6 *“if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me*

(סְגֻלָּה {segullâ} particular treasure) *for all the earth is mine.*

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.”

1 Pt 2:9 *“ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;*

(Peripoi’ēsis: precious, purchased possession. {Eph. 1:14; 1 Pt. 1:18,19})

that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

Transforming rocks into “peculiar treasures” takes time, skill and effort!

Mal 3:17 *“they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels”*

Tools God uses for our Transformation!

1. God’s Word (The Bible) 2 Tim 3:16

A. The Bible Is our Spiritual Food. Mt 4:4; Jer. 15:16

- 1) Milk: 1 Pt 2:2 *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”*
- 2) Bread: Jn 6:58; 63 *“I am that bread of life.... the words I speak unto you, they are spirit, and ... life.”*
- 3) Meat: Heb. 5:13,14 *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

B. Spiritual “food” must be digested! (Applied) Jm 1:22-25

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- 1) Some are spiritually anorexic. (Refusing to eat)
- 2) Others are spiritually bolemic. (Purging what they “eat” before it can benefit them.
Both have a distorted view of God and themselves! Jn 10:10; 2 Cor 4:4-6; James 1:17-27
- 3) Still others are spiritually Obese! James 1: 22-24;

Heb 5:14 *“Strong meat belongs to those who, by reason of use, (habit/practice) have their senses exercised...”*

1 Tim. 4:7,8 *“exercise thyself unto Godliness...”*

C. We're Transformed By God's Truths. (Heb. 4:12; Ro. 12:2)

1) Jesus is *"The word of God."* (Rev. 19:13; Jn 1:1-3)

The more of it we know, *the more of Him we know.* Jn 14:21

2) It's only by *"speaking the truth in love"* that we can *"grow up in him"*. (Eph. 4:15)

a) We can't "speak the truth" if we don't "know the truth". Ps 119:160 *"Thy word is true"*

b) We can't experience God's Freedom, if we're ignorant and indifferent of and to God's Word.

Jn 8:31-32 *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (See also Hosea 4:6)

2. The People Of God. (The Church)

God Uses Others To Shape And Sharpen Us. Pr. 27:17

A. We all have "blind spots". (Mt. 7:3-5; Jer. 17:9; James 1:21-22)

B. Sometimes we need a "family intervention" Heb. 3:13

Heb. 10:23-25 *"let us hold fast the profession of our faith, (For He is faithful that promised) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting (parakaleō: comfort/confront) one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

Note: This is how Jesus described the Holy Spirit in Jn 16:7,8 *"the Comforter (parak'lētos) ... will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgement"*

Conclusion:

Discipleship is God's practical plan whereby He uses His People to teach us to recognize and respond to His Word (2 Tim. 2:1,2;15; 3:16,17), Under the direction of His Spirit!

He **"the comforter"** (parak'lētos) will: *"Abide with you forever"* Jn 14:5; *"teach you all things..."* Jn 14:26 and *"Reprove... of sin, righteousness... Judgement"* Jn 17:7

God's Spirit directs His Word and His People to shape and sharpen us into His Jewels.

Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17; See 2 Corinthians 3!

2 Cor. 3:17,18 *"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed (Metamorphoō: transformed) into the same image {See Ro 8:29} from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

In a recent NCAA cross-country championship held in Riverside, California, 123 of the 128 runners missed a turn. One competitor, Mike Delcavo, stayed on the 10,000 meter course and began waving for fellow runners to follow him. Delcavo was able to convince only four other runners to go with him. Asked what his competitors thought of his mid-race decision not to follow the crowd, Delcavo responded, *"They thought it was funny that I went the right way."* Delcavo was one who ran correctly. Our goal is to run correctly; to finish the race marked out for us by Christ. (Heb. 12:1,2)

Application:

1) Has Satan side-tracked from the "race (God) set before you"? (Heb. 12:2)

If so, Confess, Repent, and Return to God's Process, Path and Plan! (1 Jn 1:7-10; Rev 2:5)

2) Are you willing to let God and His people (through discipleship) re-direct and Shape you for His Service by learning how to:

➤ Get prepared for the inevitable spiritual battle? (2 Tim. 2:1-4; Eph. 6:10-18)

➤ Make and learn to use your own "shield of Faith" (Eph. 6:16)

➤ Get a grip on the "Sword of the Spirit?" Vs 17 (See also Heb. 4:12)

2 Tim. 2:1-3 *"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me... the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

➤ Who will you allow to help you in this process? (Eccl. 4:9-12)

➤ Who will you help in this process? (James 5:19,20)